

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 39, 41-44, 46, and 47 are pending in this application. Claims 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, and 47 are hereby amended. Claim 39 and 44 are independent.

Claims 40-43 and 45-48 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The features of claims 40 and 45 have been incorporated into independent claims 39 and 44, respectively.

Therefore, claim 39 and 44 are allowable.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Title and Abstract, which were objected to due to informalities, have been amended, thereby obviating the objections.

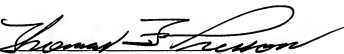
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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